

IV. REMARKS

The present invention solves the problem of congested networks by placing an indication on which processing is based into the header of a datagram.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is mistaken when he states that this feature is in Vidrascu. Please notice in Vidrascu et al., column 1, lines 57-64,

"For this purpose, the invention is a method of enciphering messages transmitted between networks interconnected via highways using a specified network protocol, characterized in that the messages are enciphered while keeping the "header" part of the message plain (not enciphered) allowing its routing via the highways..."

There is described in Vidrascu a method and device which is used in enciphering messages between two networks. The networks use IP-protocol in the network layer and in the transfer layer TCP - or UDP protocol. It is characteristic that the IP header is not enciphered. Instead, at least a part of TCP or UDP headers are enciphered. See Vidrascu in column 1, line 36-column 4, line 44; column 6, lines 18- 46; column 11, lines 11-20; and claims 1-12.

Claim 1 recites "if an IP datagram to be encrypted contains TCP header information used as a basis for the processing, at least an indication of the information on which the processing is based is placed into the header of said datagram."

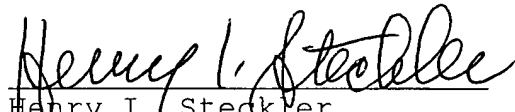
As explained above, this is totally missing from Vidrascu, which merely discloses non-enciphering of the header. Thus the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 USC 102 on Vidrascu should be withdrawn.

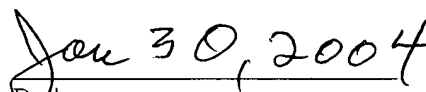
Futher, since there is no suggestion of this indication feature in Vidrascu, claims 1-11 are unobvious over it.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$110 is enclosed for a one month extension of time and additional claim fees. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


Henry I. Steckler
Reg. No. 24,139


Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

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